

IRISH LANGUAGE ABSORBING TOPIC

Its Origin and History Being
Studied on the Emerald
Isle.

O'BRIEN CONTINUES
TO STIR UP TROUBLE
Fight With Kettle Adds to Pic-
turesqueness of the
Campaign.

DUBLIN, Dec. 16.—Interest in the Irish language continues an absorbing topic in the Emerald Isle. For instance, Dr. Kuno Meyer, professor of Celtic in the Liverpool University, has just delivered a lecture on the subject, "The Making of the Irish Language." Dr. Kuno Meyer in his address said that among the many great and truly national objects which the Gaelic league had set before it none could claim an equal importance with the revival of Irish, both as a spoken tongue and as a literary language.

Should Know Its Origin.
Now while every member of the league was doing his best to make himself conversant with the living language it also behooved him to know something of the origin and history of that language. Unfortunately such knowledge was not uniformly taught either in the schools or in the universities, though the University of Manchester and that of Liverpool had lately set an example to Ireland by establishing an Honorary School of Celtic Studies which under the direction of Prof. Strachan would, he had no doubt, soon take the highest rank in the country.

No Book on Subject.
Nor did there exist a single book dealing with the history of the language either as a whole from its remote origin to the present day or in special periods. The student who would take up this subject is compelled to piece together for himself from innumerable articles scattered throughout the philological literature of Germany, France and England. It has therefore occurred to him that more ought to be done to make the people of Ireland acquainted with the origin, growth and decay of the Irish language.

Much Dramatic Interest.
It should be remembered that a subject of this kind was not of philological interest alone. The origin of the Gael who belonged to one of the mightiest peoples in the world, their settlement in Ireland, where for a long time they held undisputed sway, their struggle with other people whom they subdued until they were subdued in turn—all these things were full of dramatic, historic and even practical interest.

Best Irish Literature.
Turning to the practical side he said that if one were asked where even the best modern Irish literature could be found it would never do to point to "Keating's History" and "Trevelyan's Death," and to "The Mass," or to "Rahilly's Works," or to the "Midnight Court." It was not any one of these, but all in fact that contained the best modern Irish literature. Therefore, there

should be a book containing extracts from all of them, an anthology of the masterpieces of prose and poetry such as is placed in the hands of students of every other literature.

What It Should Contain.
Such a book should contain the best, but only the best, of Irish literature during the last two or three centuries. There the student would find the masterpieces of older and modern prose, lyrical poetry, such as selections from the "Love Songs of Connacht," the "Religious Songs," an anthology of the "Fairy Tales" from Rafferty, etc. It would be a book worthy to take its place by the side of any anthology of which other nations are proud. But this was not a task to be achieved in a hurry. It required a labor of love, wide knowledge and a sound taste. In such a book every letter should be correct.

Crying Need of Books.
In conclusion Dr. Meyer pointed out that there was a crying need of books and libraries throughout Ireland. It was his firm belief that unless such needs were speedily supplied and the whole movement put on a deeper and scholarly basis it would not make the steady and lasting progress which they all desired it should make.

Water Famine in Ireland.
A water famine is reported from many parts of Ireland. For instance, the county of Rathfriland has been recently subjected to many inconvenient experiences. When the water which had remained in the cisterns during the night had been utilized it was discovered that there was no more available. Unnecessary is it to state that this was an extremely unpleasant state of affairs.

At first it was thought that the water had become frozen in the pipes. The atmospheric conditions, however, dispelled entirely of that theory. Then people came to the conclusion that something had gone wrong with the plumbing arrangements of their residences. On inquiry this supposition was also soon dispelled, as an epidemic of unworkable cisterns had broken out in all the surrounding cities and towns.

The report of Rev. Dr. Kilkenny, M. P., at the annual meeting of Irish Agricultural Organization society contains many interesting observations upon the land problem of Ireland. The report in part says:

Tenants Become Owners.
"The unique opportunity afforded for the spread of co-operative propaganda by the creation of a peasant proprietary following so quickly on the establishment of the Agricultural department has been referred to. The process has been unexpectedly rapid during the last twelve months. Thousands of tenants have practically become owners in that time, though the landlords were not in many instances paid off, and this opportunity was unique for several reasons. First, because of the scale on which this vital change was taking place; second, because of the serious obstacles in their path which were thereby removed; and third, because of the urgency of the need that had thus arisen—for it was hardly too much to say that agricultural organization had not merely opportune at the moment all over the country, but was an absolute necessity of the hour, especially in congested districts or where economic hardship prevailed.

As to the scale of this great operation, I need only say that it is of national proportions. It behooves the nation itself and the Government to weigh well the consequences and the responsibilities involved.

O'Brien Stirs Up Trouble.
William O'Brien continues to stir up some trouble, adding to the picturesqueness of a campaign which gives promise of becoming unusually interesting. He has just crossed swords with Hon. A. J. Kettle of St. Margaret's, who, in an interview, says:

"In the last issue of Mr. O'Brien's newspaper I am sneeringly referred to as a co-opted member of the Standing Committee of the United Irish League, a body which he falsely contends is at present deliberating to keep him out of the coming National convention. I became an honorable treasurer of the league and a member of its directory along with Mr. Webb at the very pressing request of this man himself. I thought that something good for Ireland might be got through the movement, in spite of Mr. O'Brien's wild fanaticism. I may say that I could have been the representative of County Dublin in the directory if I had so desired, and when the interests of Ireland were wantonly and audaciously sacrificed to Messrs. Russell and O'Brien, the Scotch adventurer and the Irish presumptuous fanatic, I offered to retire altogether from the whole concern, but the unanimous and pressing call of the directory induced me to remain.

Kettle Is Caustic.
"Before the league was started and before this wild man emerged from his den to fight his fight against Parliament, I was watching the current of public matters very closely. I was indirectly brought into contact with A. J. Kettle when he was conducting his thirty-mile land bill through Mr. Parnell, of course, and I knew his views on the whole Irish situation.

Gets Old Irish Glass.
During his recent visit to Ireland the Duke of Connaught purchased some rare specimens of old Irish glass, which have just been sent over to Clarence House. Both his royal highness and the Duke are keen connoisseurs of old glass, furniture, etc., and it was a pretty thought of the Duke's to purchase some of the old glassware which he had seen in the Duke's collection. The Duke's collection of old glassware is said to be one of the finest in the world.

Witty Widow's Tilt With Curran.
John Philip Curran, the famous Irish lawyer, ranks among the wittiest men the Emerald Isle has produced. His wit, however, was sometimes turned against himself by the intended victim, the following story, taken from the volume of biographical reminiscences entitled "Mrs. Brookfield and Her Circle," furnishing an amusing example of how Curran was once on the receiving end.

A brisk young widow, in some part of Ireland, used to preside at the table of a coffee-house patronized by Curran. Her name was Honor, and one day there was some disputed charge.

Curran winked at the friend who happened to be sitting with him, and proposed "Honor and Honesty."

"By all means," added the widow, briskly, holding her glass to be filled, "let us drink to Mr. Curran's absent friends."

One More Spot.
Chief Justice Fuller was not long ago the guest of a Southern gentleman who had a servant named John, famous for his mint julep. Soon after Judge Fuller's arrival John appeared, bearing a tray on which was a long, cool glass, topped with crushed ice and a small tree of mint. With low bows and many smiles he presented it, and watched anxiously while Judge Fuller appreciatively sipped it.

"That's the right spot, sah," he queried.

It does, John, it does," the Judge replied.

John disappeared, but was soon recalled by the tinkle of a hand bell. The glass was not empty. The Judge looked up with a twinkle in his eye.

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THEIR TO BE SIMPLEST
COURT IN ALL EUROPE

Routine More Strenuous, However, Than That Quitted in Denmark.

CHRISTIANIA, Dec. 16.—It is regarded as an interesting coincidence by those interested in the problems surrounding the Norwegian succession that Queen Maud begins her residence in Christiania exactly 500 years from the date on which another English Princess, Philippa, the daughter of Henry IV, was married to one of the Kings of Denmark and Norway. But the auspices under which Queen Maud takes up her home in Norway are certainly much happier than those which attended this fifteenth century Queen. Then Norway had fallen on the unfortunate and the turbulent days of the Kalmar union. Now she has vindicated more fully than ever before her individuality as a separate state.

Reveries Old Epoch.
The new era is appropriately marked by the title which her King has chosen. By taking the name Haakon the sovereign revives memories of the old epoch when Norway last existed as a distinct State. Haakon VI, whose marriage with the famous Margaret of Denmark led directly to the Danish connection under the Kalmar union was the last King to rule over a separate Norway. Now another Haakon ascends the Norwegian throne to rule over a country which is similarly independent, but which has long ago eagerly adopted all of the elements of modern life.

Gave Revered Names.
The Haakons of the past gave to Norwegian history some of its most revered and famous names. The young King who now rules over Norway can, like his Queen, trace back his lineage to the ancient Kings, and on every ground, whether of history or policy he has a firm position to say the least.

King Haakon and Queen Maud, who are changing the somewhat retired life to which they have been accustomed for the many varying duties of a monarch, which he is similarly independent, but which has long ago eagerly adopted all of the elements of modern life.

NORWAY'S NEW RULERS POPULAR

Have Already Made Themselves
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Worked His Way Up.
Prince Charles, as he was known in Denmark, King Haakon as he is known in Norway, is like his uncle, King George of Greece, a sailor Prince who has worked his way to a high position

in the navy through all of the various degrees, from midshipman to Captain, without any intentional preference being shown for him because he was a member of the royal family. His brother, Prince Carl, who is also a sailor, is a good comrade, but as a very able officer, and his popularity among the non-commissioned officers was shown by the enthusiasm he met when he visited their club to bid them farewell before leaving to take up his new duties in Norway.

Lived the Simple Life.
As Prince and Princess Charles were not obliged to entertain in elaborate style while in Copenhagen the new routine will undoubtedly be quite tiresome at times. When in Copenhagen they resided in one of the apartments of the palace belonging to the King of the Hellenes, who is the proprietor of several magnificent houses in Copenhagen. Prince Charles understood the full art of making a home cosy and comfortable. His residence was often admired at the dinner parties given from time to time to the naval colleagues of the Prince and the members of the aristocracy and also prominent commercial men, among whom the Prince numbered many friends.

Queen Is Literary.
The time of the Prince when in Denmark was, however, largely occupied by his naval work. Princess Maud had inherited her mother's musical tastes. But not only does she possess the musical tastes of her mother, Queen Alexandra. In fact, she has extended literary tastes and interests. It is an open secret among the members of royalty in Copenhagen and London that Queen Maud is regarded as the highest intellectual of the children of King Edward VII. She now speaks excellent Danish, and this will make it comparatively easy for her to master Norwegian, for the two languages are similar in many respects.

Little Prince Displeased.
The third member of the royal family, the Crown Prince Olaf, hitherto Prince Alexander, is an amusing little boy who already speaks English and Danish quite well and who can already express his wishes in French. How he likes his new name, the result of the change in position is not known, but officers who are on intimate terms with the young prince suggest that he is by no means pleased with the compulsory change of name and residence, especially the latter.

Presents Fine View.
Seen from a distance, say from the farthest end of the principal street in Christiania, the Karl Johans street, the King and Queen's future home presents a splendid view, the castle towering high over the town on a lofty hill with a fine equestrian statue of the first Barnardotte King of Sweden and Norway in the foreground. Approaching the castle the beauty of the building vanishes and only a magnificent view of the town remains.

Is of Large Dimensions.
The structure, however, is of large dimensions—so large that the short time that has been at disposal for some highly necessary restorations has necessitated a restoration of them to one wing, where for the time being the King and Queen's apartments have been made as comfortable as possible. The state-rooms and the wing of the castle which will be used for future guests, have hardly been touched, and it is expected that partial reconstruction of the interior of the entire building will take place in the near future.

Situation of Royal Rooms.
The royal rooms are in the southwestern wing of the castle; the King's study and a fine billiard-room are, however, situated in the southern wing, from which a door leads to the King's dressing-rooms and the sleeping apartments. These rooms are on the second story, whence winding stairs lead down to the first floor, where the dining and drawing-rooms and the rooms of the servants are situated. The Crown Prince Olaf's rooms are in the western part of the wing and consist of three apartments with the necessary rooms for servants.

King Oscar's Library.
From the private study of the King a passage leads to the state-rooms in the central part of the castle. Several reception-rooms lead to the throne-room, where the three well-known coronation pictures are to be found. This will be the apartment where the King will receive the foreign Embassadors. After passing the state-room there follows a much smaller hall from which a door opens to the room where hitherto the state counsels have been held, and which also had been used for the royal library. This library has been collected by the Barnardottes and really belongs to King Oscar, who has left it in the castle under certain conditions, among them that the University Library shall be allowed to take from the royal collection any books that it needs.

Simplest Court in Europe.
The expenses of this royal household will naturally show a considerable increase over those necessary for the quiet life at Copenhagen. Indeed the Norwegian Parliament has already recognized this fact and has agreed to a vote of \$200,000, about five times as much as the income and the expenditures of the Prince when at Copenhagen. Still it is believed that, take it all in all, the life at the court of Norway will be more simple than that of almost any other court in Europe. Queen Maud is taking a great deal of pleasure from the Copenhagen residence to the castle at Christiania, and the Queen will, with her characteristic style, soon have her new home arranged in accordance with her wishes.

Lives Saved by Chewing-gum.
An incident recently occurred in Wisconsin which rises up, so to speak, in reproach and refutation of those who declaim against the chewing-gum habit, especially when indulged in by members of the fair sex. The incident referred to, as related in a newspaper dispatch, occurred on a lake in Wisconsin. A woman was crossing the lake in company with her husband, a guide, when the birch canoe struck a rock, and a hole was opened in the side flush with the waterline. The woman quickly patched the leak with a quid of chewing gum, and thus repaired the boat, reaching the shore in safety. Who shall say now that the chewing-gum trust has not a sufficient reason d'être—Leslie's Weekly.

A Kind Wife.
They had not been married very long, and that complete blissful trust which young husbands and wives have in each other had not yet been broken. But one morning while meekly remarked, "I mended the hole in your trousers pocket last night after you had gone to bed, John, dear. Now, am I not a thoughtful little wife?"

Husband (dubiously): "Well, er—yes, you are thoughtful enough, my dear, but how the mischief did you mend it? There was a hole in my pocket?"—Tit-bits.

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